

## APPENDIX 14

**To:** Chief Executive Officer**From:** Carolyn Betts, Policy Officer**Organisation:** All Councils**Date:** 29 May 2003**Reference:** LAW016**Subject:** NEW STRUCTURE FOR CRIME PREVENTION IN WA

City of Joondalup DOCUMENT REGISTRATION	
Reference #	: 03011
Letter #	: 317790
Action Officer	: CD10 CC: CEO
Date Received	: 03/06/2003
Action Required	: NOTE

As you are no doubt aware the Association held a forum on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2003 to discuss issues around the proposed *New Structure for Crime Prevention in WA*.

The forum was officially opened by the Premier followed by a number of presentations by Local Government and State Government representatives. These included the Commissioner for Police, Barry Matthews, the Director General of the Department of Local Government and Regional Development and Peter Homel from the Australian Institute of Criminology, Stuart Jardine (Gosnells), Mayor Peter Tagliaferri (Fremantle) and Mayor Lou Magro (Bayswater).

The workshop session was facilitated by Bevan Bessan who posed a number of questions to delegates seeking their satisfaction on the information presented in response to the following key concerns raised in the Association's submission to the new structure:

- Decision making power and control of resources within the proposed structure;
- Full costing and identification of adequate resourcing for the proposed enhanced role for Local Government in the proposed new structure;
- Amendments to information sharing protocols and regulated legislation to protect all relevant officers as well as the public good;
- Clarification on the definition, role and boundaries applicable to the proposed crime preventative structure referred to in the draft.

A copy of the report from the forum is **attached** for your information which includes data on the responses to the above questions. As you will see from the report (pp. 11-12) the majority of delegates agreed to proceed with the new structure, however the response provided a number of conditions.

State Council will be considering the outcomes from the forum at their meeting on 4 June 2003 and if you have any concerns about the outcomes, please advise your State Council representative.

I have also **attached** a copy of the Premier's presentation as it provides a State response to the four key points above. Other presentations are currently being collected, and will be available at the Association if required.

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**The Voice of Local Government**



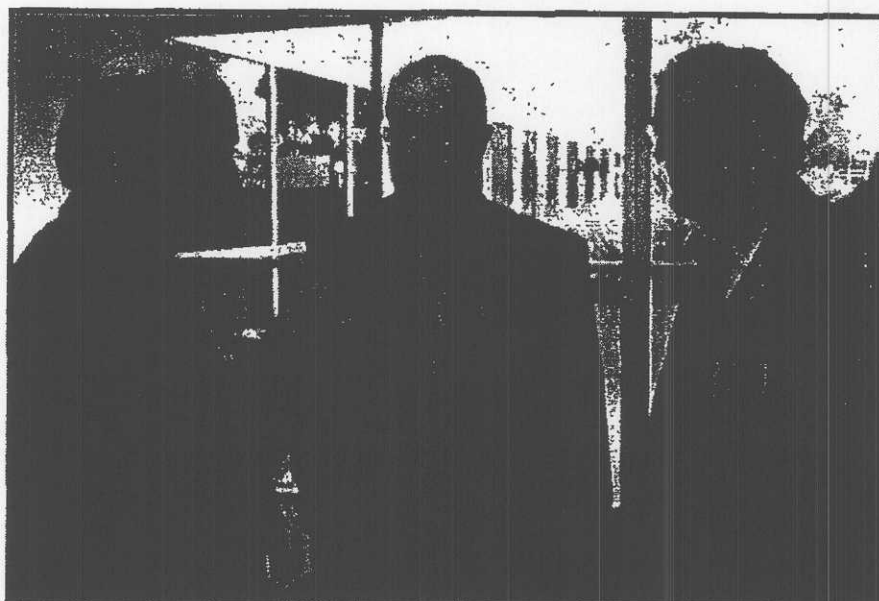


WESTERN AUSTRALIAN  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

## CRIME PREVENTION FORUM

Saturday 17th May 2003

Bentley Technology Park  
Brodie Hall Drive, Bentley



## WORKSHOP OUTCOMES

At the April meeting of State Council, it was resolved for the Association to convene a forum to enable Local Governments to further assess the impact of the proposed recommendations on resources and outcomes from the New Structure for Crime Prevention in WA, developed by the Office of Crime Prevention.

The forum was held at Bentley Technology Park and attracted over 60 participants. Keynote speakers included The Premier, Hon Dr Geoff Gallop MLA; The Commissioner of Police, Barry Matthews; Cheryl Gwilliam, Director General, Department of Local Government and Regional Development; Mayor Lou Magro, City of Bayswater; Mayor Peter Tagliaferi, City of Fremantle; Stuart Jardine, CEO, City of Gosnells and Peter Homel, Australian Institute of Criminology.

Following a presentation and a panel session, a workshop session was conducted with participants.

The purpose of the workshop was:

- to get input on the proposed changes; and
- to provide a clear indication on the way forward.



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

127

Participants worked in nine small groups to examine four identified areas in terms of their satisfaction with the clarifications provided. They rated the areas using the following scale:

- 1 = not addressed
- 2 = small parts addressed
- 3 = some areas addressed
- 4 = mostly addressed
- 5 = addressed

The results were:

- decision making power: 2.77
- costing and resourcing: 2.37
- information sharing: 2.44
- roles and responsibilities: 2.44

Participants were also asked to come up with a recommendation to the Association in terms of:

- participate or not participant; and
- conditions to the decision.

The results were:

- 7 groups recommended participation.  
2 groups recommended against participation.
- 29 individuals supported participation.  
10 individuals did not support participation.
- This is 78% support from the groups and 74% support from individuals.

It was agreed:

- to get this summary of the workshop session to all Zones as soon as possible;
- for State Councillors to talk with their Zone representatives; and
- to bring these recommendations to the State Council Meeting on 3 June 2003.

## WORKSHOP PROCESS

128

Participants worked in nine small groups, to consider the four areas identified by State Council as needing further discussion, ie:

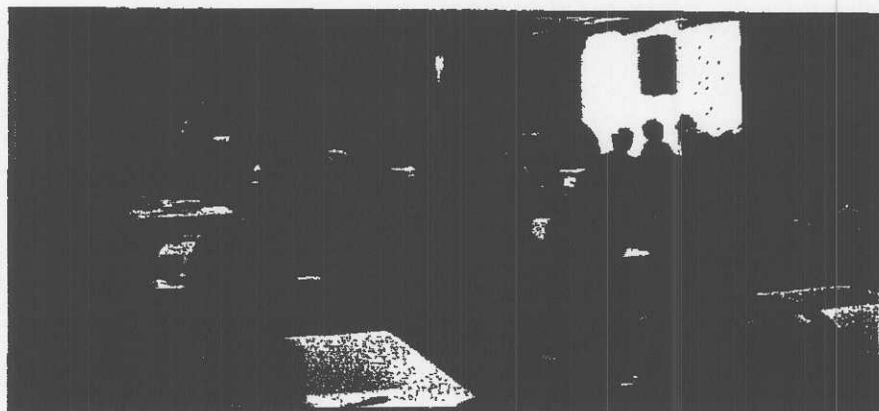
- decision making power and control of resources within the proposed structure  
(Decision Making Power);
- full costing and identification of adequate resourcing for the proposed enhanced role for Local Government in the proposed new structure  
(Costing and Resourcing);
- amendments to information sharing protocols and regulated legislation to protect all relevant officers as well as the public good  
(Information Sharing and Liabilities);
- clarification on the definition, role and boundaries applicable to the proposed crime preventative structure referred to in the draft  
(Roles and Responsibilities).

In each group, participants addressed each of the four identified areas, in terms of:

- remaining concerns; and
- any further information required.

For each area, each group also rated how well the identified area had been addressed, using the following scale:

- 1 = not addressed
- 2 = *small parts addressed*
- 3 = some areas addressed
- 4 = mostly addressed
- 5 = addressed





## Decision Making Power

129

The average rating for this area was 2.77, suggesting that participants believed that some areas had been addressed.

The major concern related to getting input and commitment from all Agencies.

There was a clear listing of the areas that require more information.

Decision Making Power			
Group	Remaining Concerns	Further Information	Rating
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Definition of the word "partnership" needs more clarity.</li> <li>- Concerns on ownership – political terms, eg: three years and it's something new.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clarity and explanation on the process and mechanics on how the decision making approval process will occur.</li> <li>- What will happen and how will the good things from the existing structure be integrated into the new way of doing business.</li> </ul>	3
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Who has the casting vote in the partnership if there is a difference of opinion?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Will there be Local Service Agreements with Agencies?</li> </ul>	3
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Community and Local Government are no problems.</li> <li>- Difficulty is in having Agencies participate and share views.</li> </ul>		3
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- If an interagency approach didn't work before, why will it work with the new proposal?</li> <li>- What is the role of volunteers? What powers will they have? Who will cover the insurance costs for these people?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What power will State Government have to veto Local Government plans and programs?</li> </ul>	2
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Other Government Agencies need to be committed to the partnerships agreement.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Transparency of decision making needs to be very open and feedback is required.</li> </ul>	3
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Where do the demarcation boundaries lie: between security guard and other Agencies, ie: Police, Ambulance?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Where does the liability lie?</li> <li>- Better utilisation of Local Government employees (ie: Rangers, health officers, environmental officers).</li> <li>- Community nurses and health services recognising potential problems (areas, families and children).</li> </ul>	3

7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Not enough information on details.</li> <li>- How does NHW fit into this model?</li> <li>- Lack of input from other Agencies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• non Police Agencies;</li> <li>• Housing;</li> <li>• Ministry of Justice;</li> <li>• Community Development;</li> <li>• Indigenous Affairs, etc.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What will be the boundaries and role of Local Government?</li> <li>- What happens to Local Governments on the boundaries of Local Governments that have instituted security patrols within their areas ... impact on neighbouring Councils.</li> </ul>	1
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Local Government – leadership.</li> <li>- Safer WA Committees.</li> <li>- Agency participation.</li> <li>- Plan (\$10,000).</li> <li>- Committee (\$1,200).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Formal policy position to be constructed by Council.</li> <li>- Power of Intervention by Local Government, Agencies and volunteers.</li> </ul>	3
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Full time partnerships.</li> <li>- <u>All</u> Agencies involved in decision making.</li> <li>- Access to Agencies after hours is important.</li> <li>- Has there been adequate <u>community</u> consultation?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Time constraints.</li> <li>- Does Local Government need more time (ie: to respond to Review)?</li> </ul>	4

## Costing and Resourcing

The average rating was 2.37, suggesting that participants were least satisfied with the clarifications for this area.

Concerns remain about the level of funding and the inequities between different localities.

Costing and Resourcing			
Group	Remaining Concerns	Further Information	Rating
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Figures don't add up.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Equitable resourcing for remote areas (including allowances for travel and freight).</li> <li>- What will happen to current Safer WA resources and programs?</li> </ul>	2

2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Specific concerns cannot be funded (particularly Rural and Regional).</li> <li>- Identifying real need is limited.</li> <li>- Will there be adequate funding to implement the Community Security Plan?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Need some level of State Government commitment to on-going funding.</li> </ul>	2
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- \$10,000 set up and plan (inequity between country and city)</li> <li>- \$1,200 year to manage (tea and bickies) equals \$24 per week (an insult).</li> <li>- Reverse these amounts, ie: \$1,200 for the plan and \$10,000 for ongoing support.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Should be "needs based".</li> <li>- Recommend clumping of planning resources (issues are often similar)</li> </ul>	4
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Proposed State Government funding doesn't take into account size and population of Local Government Authorities.</li> <li>- Formula??</li> <li>- Mechanisms for other funding.</li> <li>- Level of funding is inadequate to implement.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What will be the process for inquiry into criteria for refused applications and who will the process go through?</li> </ul>	2
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inadequate amount of resourcing.</li> <li>- How will the program and initiatives be sustained, ie: suggestion of a ten year agreement – to ensure continuity and bi-partisan commitment.</li> <li>- Distribution of funding needs to be assessed on a needs basis, eg: metropolitan, regional and remote.</li> <li>- Regional applications (number of Councils)</li> <li>- Other funding sources not committed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How the money will be distributed.</li> </ul>	3
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How to access Agency resources.</li> <li>- Difficulty in getting Agencies to the table.</li> <li>- Not knowing their resources to share.</li> <li>- Reluctance to participate and share funds.</li> </ul>		2



7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Is the funding level adequate?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regional approach – sharing information and resources needs to be part of the solution.</li> <li>- Will there be an increase in Office of Crime Prevention to support the new programs?</li> </ul>	-
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- \$10,000 to be dedicated to the Safer Community Committee.</li> <li>- Regional Council capacity, ie: combined the lots of \$10,000 to work better, as a first step.</li> <li>- Adequacy of funding resources.</li> <li>- PR and education money from the State.</li> <li>- Other funding and resources to be provided after the plan has been considered.</li> <li>- Agency involvement should include a resourcing component.</li> </ul>		2
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On-going funding?</li> <li>- Resource requirements.</li> <li>- Who "owns" the final plan? Who should?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Is the account of funding going to be adequate?</li> <li>- Is there going to be a template for all Local Governments ... we need a <i>defined criteria</i> (apples with apples) for the evaluation process.</li> </ul>	2

## Information Sharing and Liabilities

The average rating for this area was 2.44.

Concerns remain about confidentiality levels and safeguards to protect persons sharing information.

Further information is required on how this will work in practice.

Information Sharing and Liabilities			
Group	Remaining Concerns	Further Information	Rating
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Departments dealing with problem areas, families – need to share information.</li> <li>- Can Local Governments manage this?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Who is the overlord of this information (do we collect information for information's sake)?</li> </ul>	1

2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How long will new information sharing legislation take to be implemented?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What interim plans will be put into place for sharing of information?</li> </ul>	3
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Huge concerns on access of information, ie: confidentiality clauses, eg: Police crime maps.</li> </ul>		2
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Confidentiality levels at Safer Community Committees, ie: Committee members to sign off as well (Code of Conduct?)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Information sharing should be meaningful.</li> </ul>	4
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Set of guidelines on what constitutes minimum – confidentially needs to be ensured.</li> <li>- Set of safeguards to protect persons sharing information.</li> <li>- Code of Conduct and confidentiality agreement for members of Committee.</li> </ul>		2
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Apparent one way flow of information from Local Government to State.</li> <li>- What happens if there is a diminished capacity in staffing at OCP?</li> </ul>		3
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Must improve the level of information sharing, particularly between Agencies and Local Government.</li> <li>- Crime statistical information flow needs to improve.</li> <li>- OCP to provide this information to Local Government on a regular basis (we recognise confidentiality issues).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regular regional forums to disperse data and information.</li> </ul>	3
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Co-ordination by State Government? ... to avoid duplication.</li> <li>- Regional partnerships – how far do we involve neighbouring Councils and how many?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How is the information system actually going to be shared ... who co-ordinates this?</li> <li>- Who has access to information and what information?</li> </ul>	2
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Relationships must be clearly laid out.</li> <li>- Who, what, where, how?</li> <li>- What is the educational process of the community ... and costs ... who pays?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What will be the next steps in this process?</li> </ul>	2

## Roles and Responsibilities

134

The average rating for this area as 2.44.

Concerns remain about the transition arrangements from the SAFER WA Committees to the new committees.

Roles and Responsibilities			
Group	Remaining Concerns	Further Information	Rating
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Could opportunity be provided for Local Government to have dialogue (negotiation) on funding requirements – short and long term?</li> <li>– Greater representation by Local Government on Regional Managers Forum and Community Safety and Crime Council.</li> <li>– Representation of Local Government at <u>all</u> levels.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Community to take greater "ownership".</li> </ul>	4
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Critical that Local Government take the lead role in crime prevention in the community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Believe that information on the details of crime prevention partnerships has not been circulated widely or in time for some Councillors to fully understand all details.</li> </ul>	4
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Seems that in order to implement the new structure, the existing structure needs to be dismantled, and as a result, will suffer a loss of people.</li> <li>– Should have built on structural weakness rather than starting again.</li> </ul>		2
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Who ensures it will be an equal partnership?</li> <li>– Delivery of outcomes should be the focus rather than a paper chase.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– What happens to the existing Safer WA and volunteers?</li> </ul>	2
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– What happens to the old Safer WA Committees?                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• similar structures?</li> <li>• Local Government leadership?</li> </ul> </li> <li>– Roles of current Community Groups, ie: Roadwise, Rural Watch, etc?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Liaison between Local Government as "new leaders" and the old Committees for continuity and possible new emphasis?</li> </ul>	3

6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Need to build in flexibility.</li> <li>- Ownership needs to remain firmly with the State Government.</li> <li>- Roles and Responsibilities should be 50/50.</li> <li>- State Crime Strategy – State Government</li> <li>- Safer Communities and Crime Prevention Local Plans – Local Government.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clear definition required.</li> <li>- Duty Statement (list responsibilities).</li> </ul>	2
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Facilitating, participating, supporting – planning time</li> <li>- Assisting in communication to community</li> <li>- Fulfil obligations to community.</li> <li>- Receive and manage funds</li> </ul>	- All on \$1,200 per annum!	4
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Volunteers are reluctant to “work” for Local Government.</li> <li>- Local Government haven’t got resources to perform the proposed program in some regions.</li> <li>- Needs further clarification.</li> </ul>	- Clarification on how, who and when the proposal will be monitored.	1
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Encourage Agencies to work together across policies and services to deliver efficient outcomes.</li> </ul>		-

## Participation

Following the analysis of each area, each table was asked to come up with a recommendation to the Association, in terms of:

- participate or not participate; and
- conditions to the decision.

Table results were posted at the front of the room and each individual representing Local Government was allowed a vote to indicate support for the position stated.

The results were:

- 7 tables recommended participation.
- 2 tables recommended against participation.

- 29 individuals supported participation.  
10 individuals did not support participation.
- This is 78% support from the groups and 74% support from individuals.

The conditions reflect the concerns identified above.

The recommendations are provided in full below.

Participation			
Group	Decision	Conditions	Votes
1	Yes, <u>but</u> :	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Concerns to be addressed with more information.</li> <li>- Clarification of all processes.</li> <li>- State Government to commit Agencies' involvement.</li> <li>- Accountability and review process.</li> <li>- Leadership still with State Government.</li> </ul> ie: failure to support.	6
2	Yes, keep moving forward:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Formation of a small, or short, sharp (eg: one day only) Working Party representing Councils committed to crime prevention, to work on issues and concerns raised today.</li> <li>- Representatives from Local Government (Metropolitan and Regional) and State Government (OCP).</li> <li>- Present a Paper on the clarification of issues that analyses concerns, issues and commonality.</li> </ul>	8
3	Yes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With no cost transfer.</li> </ul>	2
4	Yes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More resources of people and money.</li> <li>- Community will expect results.</li> <li>- If Government want Local Government to run this, they have to fund it fully.</li> </ul>	3



5	Yes, <u>but</u> :	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Association needs to provide more information on the questions and concerns that have been raised at this Forum.</li> <li>- Funding is on-going ... budget commitment!</li> <li>- WALGA and OCP to agree on a time line.</li> <li>- That we don't reinvent the wheel ... build on Safer WA initiatives.</li> </ul>	4
6	Yes - "Imperative" that Local Government participates:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Funding clearly defined – access to adequate funding.</li> <li>- Guarantee of across-Agency participation at all levels.</li> <li>- Transparency-clear-open-all decisions.</li> <li>- OCP resourcing increase to meet demands of this project.</li> <li>- "Safer WA" model to be used as a basis for the structure, using Local Government as the lead body.</li> </ul>	4
7	Yes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Issue should be <b>fully</b> defined and promoted to the whole WA Community by the State Government.</li> <li>- Properly deal with the old Safer WA and the transition to the new Safer Community Committee.</li> <li>- Define the funding model for the start and thereon to maturing initiatives.</li> <li>- Roles of Agencies and their funding commitments.</li> </ul>	2
8	No:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Revisit Safer WA with greater commitment from State and Local Governments and Agencies.</li> </ul> <p>or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- State Government come up with a better offer.</li> </ul>	10
9	No, on the evaluation of the evidence from today, do not participate:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Further clarification, given outcome of voting today</li> </ul>	

**HON. DR GEOFF GALLOP MLA  
PREMIER OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA**



**WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
ASSOCIATION**

**CRIME PREVENTION FORUM**

**TECHNOLOGY PARK, BENTLEY**

**SATURDAY 17 MAY 2003**

**Acknowledgements:**

- Cr Clive Robartson, President, WALGA;
- Mr Barry Matthews Commissioner of Police Service;
- Ms Cheryl Gwilliam Director General of the Department for Local Government and Regional Development,
- Mr John Hudson, President, Safer WA
- Mr Peter Homel Senior Research Fellow of the Australian Institute of Criminology.
- Mayors, Presidents and Councillors of Local Government
- Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

**Introduction**

Crime and safety are key issues of concern in our community and there is an expectation that action will be taken at all levels and by all agencies of Government to make our communities safer and prevent crime. This is because community safety is a basic human right and an important factor in the quality of life of individuals, their families and their local communities.

Governments don't have all the answers, but governments can make a difference. And it is only by working together we can get things done. This is the aim of today's forum.

We face a future of increasing diversity in communities, an expanding population and increasingly complex issues surrounding crime and safety.

In this environment Councils are strategically placed to identify and mobilise local partners to provide appropriate actions and services. Local Government involvement has been shown to bring results in reducing crime, victimisation and other social problems.

There are many examples of such leadership by Local Government in Western Australia.

In the town of Victoria Park in my own electorate Mayor Mick Lee chairs the local Safer WA committee, the meetings are held in council chambers and the key agencies and departments are represented at the table.

In the City of Gosnells Mayor Pat Morris has worked tirelessly to promote the Safer Cities Urban Design Strategy and in partnership with State Government and the community to install initiatives that benefit the people of Gosnells. Gosnells has taken steps to increase pedestrian activity, community interaction and visibility to make detection easier and crime more difficult.

At the City of Fremantle Mayor Peter Tagliaferri is also a leader in community safety and crime prevention chairing the local committee under the strategy "Opportunities and Plan to Improve Public Safety."

The Cities of Bayswater and Canning and the Town of Victoria Park are working in partnership with the Office of Crime Prevention on burglary. The Burglary Reduction Pilot for reducing residential burglary will be undertaken in Bayswater and Canning over the next 12 months.

In addition Canning, Victoria Park and Belmont Councils are also working with the Office of Crime Prevention on a Feasibility Study on Place Management to Reduce Industrial Burglary in the Kewdale, Welshpool and Carlisle Area.

Some of these Councils already in fact provide good examples of how the State Government sees the new approach to community safety and crime prevention operating.

I congratulate these and other councils who are already working hard to reduce and prevent crime and make their communities safer.

## **Complex Problem**

Crime and community safety are issues that involve the whole community. Crime results from many factors, such as unemployment, family problems, child abuse, low education levels, income disparities, substance abuse, the lack of adequate/ affordable housing, and isolation.

Safer communities are those where people enjoy strong social attachments to family members, neighbours, friends, associates and organisations. We must tackle the social causes of crime by building strong local communities.

The complex nature of crime demands that it be addressed at a number of levels, with a mixture of short, medium, and long-term strategies directed at all life stages, from early intervention programs with families to prevent the development of anti-social and criminal behaviour, to assisting vulnerable groups such as seniors.

## **An Integrated Approach**

It is increasingly clear the responsibility for addressing the means to make our communities safer and prevent crime is beyond the scope of any one agency or sector. Divided we cannot make the difference to crime and antisocial behaviour. But by working together we can.

The first step to safer communities and crime prevention is bringing all the parties to the table. This means State Government Agencies, Local Government, Police, the non-government and business sectors, and the community.

## **Local Government decides its involvement**

Local Governments have raised four main issues about the proposed new crime prevention structure and I would like to take this opportunity to answer these concerns.



**1. Decision making power and control of resources within the proposed new structure**

The proposed arrangement seeks to establish a more effective local level partnership between Local Government, Police, other State Government agencies and the community to develop and implement a Safer Communities and Crime Prevention Plan to address issues of concern within the local community.

While Local Government is being asked to facilitate and support the development of the partnership and the plan, Local Government's role is as an equal partner with other agencies and individuals.

The key to achieving better results is through a commitment to working together more effectively and coordinating all participants' efforts to get the best model for a community's circumstances and needs.

It is intended that these arrangements be underpinned by a partnership agreement between the State and Local Government, and a Statement of Commitment signed by relevant Directors General supporting State Government agency participation.

**2. Full costing and identification of adequate resourcing for the proposed enhanced role of Local Government**

The proposed additional role for Local Government under the new model is to:

- facilitate the development of local Safer Communities and Crime Prevention Plans; and
- support the mechanism to implement, monitor, evaluate and report on progress of the plan.

For some local governments, this proposal may involve only minor changes to the work they are already doing in the areas of community safety and crime prevention.

I acknowledge that there will be costs associated with developing a local Safer Communities and Crime Prevention Plan and supporting the local Safer Communities and Crime Prevention Partnership.

I also acknowledge that in many cases Local Governments and other stakeholders are already contributing resources to support their local safety and crime prevention efforts.

The State Government allocates \$3.198 million per annum to the Office of Crime Prevention for crime prevention activities.

\$1 million of these funds are dedicated for Local Government initiatives through the Community Security Grants Program. Yesterday I announced that forty projects would share in this funding to support the development and implementation of initiatives.

Up to \$10,000 will be provided for the development of plans. Up to \$1,200 per annum will be provided to support the partnership arrangements. The Office of Crime Prevention will provide this to each participating Local Government as a grant. In addition to the dedicated \$1 million, the proposed Local Government/community partnership will have priority access to at least a further \$1 million from this funding pool to implement community safety and crime prevention plans

The Office will also assist Local Government to access other funding sources to support the implementation of local plans.

**3. Amendments to information sharing protocols and regulated legislation to protect all relevant officers as well as the public good.**

In its response to the Gordon Inquiry the State Government acknowledged that information sharing is critical to ensuring an adequate whole of Government response to complex social issues.

To this end, the Government will develop appropriate legislation to cover all aspects of the sharing of information between agencies for the collaborative management of human service delivery. This proposed legislation will be compatible with existing Commonwealth privacy legislation and with proposed State privacy legislation.

It is the Government's intention that this legislation be introduced into Parliament by Spring 2003.

As an interim measure the State Government has endorsed a Policy Framework and Standards for the Sharing of Information between Government Agencies. A copy has been circulated to representatives attending the workshop.

**4. Clarification of definitions, roles and boundaries applicable to the proposed structures referred to in the Report**

Under the proposed structure I am not, and the State Government is not, asking Local Government to take sole responsibility for community safety and crime prevention in their community – we are in fact asking Councils to work with the State Government in this important area through the Police Service and other agencies. Under the proposed structure Local Councils would, as I have already outlined:

- convene a local community safety and crime prevention partnership involving representatives from Local Government, Police, State Government agencies, business sector, non government organisations, and community;
- facilitate the development of a local community safety and crime prevention plan;
- support the group or committee that is established to oversees the implementation of this plan.

The extent and scope to which individual Local Governments want to get involved would remain a decision for each Local Government to make.

It is not the role of the State Government to define boundaries or dictate commitment for Local Government in this area. Of course I wholeheartedly encourage your

participation and involvement in what I believe is an important and urgent area that needs to be addressed and to which Local Government can – and I believe needs to – make a significant and substantial contribution.

## **Conclusion**

To further assist Local Governments in this new initiative it is proposed that when the Partnership Agreement is signed, one of the first joint projects between the Office of Crime Prevention and Local Government would be to develop a 'best practice model' for Local Government in community safety and crime prevention.

In the interests of building strong, connected, and safe communities I encourage you all to take up the challenge and form a meaningful and productive alliance on community safety and crime prevention between State and Local Government.

Thank you.